

and economy of the region cannot be understated.

Mr. St. Pierre has been a tremendous leader for the District, breaking new ground in promoting the District's resource recovery program across MWRD to transform water treatment and encourage new technologies. Mr. St. Pierre has focused on finding sustainable solutions, including adapting for climate change through storm water management, enhancing resource recovery to generate renewable energy and phosphorus, implementing biosolids composting, developing disinfection facilities, and greening Chicagoland's schoolyards. Mr. St. Pierre has also been instrumental in NACWA's peer-to-peer program, working to partner clean water agencies for mentorship and collaboration.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I congratulate David St. Pierre on his election as the President of NACWA. As he has done with the MWRD, he will lead the Association with integrity and ingenuity. I wish him, MWRD, and NACWA the very best in their endeavors.

CONGRATULATING ELAINE WOOD  
FOR RECEIVING THE 2017 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

**HON. JACK BERGMAN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 17, 2018*

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it's my honor to recognize Elaine Wood for receiving the 2017 Distinguished Service Award from the Traverse City Area Chamber of Commerce. Through her exceptional leadership and steadfast devotion to her community, Elaine is an indispensable part of Northern Michigan.

Since 1929, the Distinguished Service Award has been given to leaders who have had a tremendous positive impact on the Traverse City area. With more than 40 years with Networks Northwest, Elaine has led in the creation of innovative programs for employment skills training, streamlined data research, and year-round adult education systems. Her unique work with the government even led to her appointment to Governor Snyder's Talent Investment Board in 2011.

Elaine's steadfast determination has been recognized through numerous awards throughout her career, including being named one of the area's 25 Most Powerful Women by the Traverse City Business News in 2014. She has also served on numerous boards and trustees, including Munson Healthcare, the United Way of Northwest Michigan, the Cherryland Humane Society, and for almost two decades at Northwestern Michigan College. The impact of her work on the Traverse City community and across Michigan cannot be understated.

Mr. Speaker, it's my honor to congratulate Elaine Wood for receiving the 2017 Distinguished Service Award. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such a selfless and devoted leader. On behalf of my constituents, I wish Elaine all the best in her future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RON KIND**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 17, 2018*

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to have my votes recorded on the House floor on Tuesday, January 16, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of S. 117 and H.R. 4318.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 17, 2018*

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to attend votes on January 16, 2018 due to weather delays in Houston. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 18 and YEA on Roll Call No. 19.

HONORING DONALD L. CHRISTIANS

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 17, 2018*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the incredible life of Donald L. Christians. Donald L. Christians recently marked his 90th birthday. His is an American story of the last century in which an adventuresome, generous soul migrates from a small farming community to cities and broader global experience. Don looked back on Grafton, Iowa where he grew up (recent census of 252) and wrote Homer's Whip, that depicted a tiny prairie town with timeless small-town values. At the same time, he embraced the diverse world.

During his second year at Luther College he enlisted in the U.S. Army to fight in World War II, and served 1½ years in the occupational forces in Japan in 1946 when he was just 18. Like so many farm boys, his world was transformed. Upon discharge, Don finished college with a degree in political science from the University of Northern Iowa in 1950 and later earned a Master's Degree from Northern Colorado University.

Don headed to California in 1955, settling in North Beach, living the life of jazz, card playing, bocce ball, horse racing, and writing, while beginning his 29-year career teaching in the San Francisco Unified School District. There he met and married the artist/fellow teacher, Joan Clay, in 1960 and they spent their honeymoon driving a VW Camper Van to Tierra Del Fuego in Chile. Both often taught the most challenging students to whom they devoted their creativity, respect, and good humor.

In 1967, Don was appointed Associate Director of the Peace Corps Program in Ethiopia where Don and Joan lived until 1969 where Don was assigned to support the work of volunteers in a remote region of the country. He was extremely effective in all aspects of this assignment. He mentored volunteers in the classroom and in school protocol and inter-

action, e.g., with headmasters who required extensive memorization even though the students did not have pencils or paper. He also modeled the expected interaction with the broader community. His expertise, life experience, and winning manner made him the ideal person to relate to volunteers, faculty, administrators, townspeople, as well as the Peace Corps bureaucracy. He supported volunteers who undertook ambitious, often impactful projects that departed from the mainstream and served as the trusted confidant of Peace Corps Ethiopia leadership, shaping policy for the Program as a whole.

In 1969, Don was appointed Country Director Peace Corps Dominican Republic. Visitors recall Don selling co-op crafts to tourists on cruises on Christmas Day. Don and Joan remained in the Dominican Republic until they were recalled by President Nixon and Don worked on the Muskie campaign until Don and Joan returned to San Francisco in 1973. Don taught high school Civics for 29 years, retiring from Galileo High School in San Francisco in 1986 where he was beloved as an inspiring teacher by a wide range of students.

Over the years Don made an enormous number of friends from his many interests and vocations, reflecting his enthusiasm and variety of interests. He and Joan owned shares in 22 race horses and had particular success with "Mac Rhapsody" and "Pleasure Grounds". Don worked at Golden Gate Fields as a mutual clerk. He wrote numerous articles for horse magazines and hosted a radio program for 5 years on KWMR in West Marin interviewing authors. After Joan's passing, he met Neva Beach, a book editor, and they were together until her passing in 2010. Don has been living with their dog Cody in San Francisco's colorful Mission District since he met Neva and they were often seen feeding homeless men and women in a local park as well as taking neighborhood children to zoos and museums.

Don loves bridge and bocce ball and excels at both. He was a member of the Marin Bocce Ball team that won the Northern California Seniors championship, and he played in bridge tournaments around the U.S. as a Silver Life Master. He places bets on horseraces and plays bridge online every day when he is able.

On behalf of the people of California's Third District, I commend Donald L. Christians on his distinguished life and wish him the best in the coming years.

RECOGNIZING TRISTEN VIDLUND  
AND TORREY COOKMAN FOR  
COMPETING AT THE NATURAL  
LUGE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. JACK BERGMAN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 17, 2018*

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it's my honor to recognize Tristen Vidlund and Torrey Cookman for their participation in the Natural Luge World Championship. Through their perseverance and determination, Tristen and Torrey have distinguished themselves as members of the U.S. Natural Track Luge Team.

Tristen, 17, and Torrey, 13, are both natives to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and have